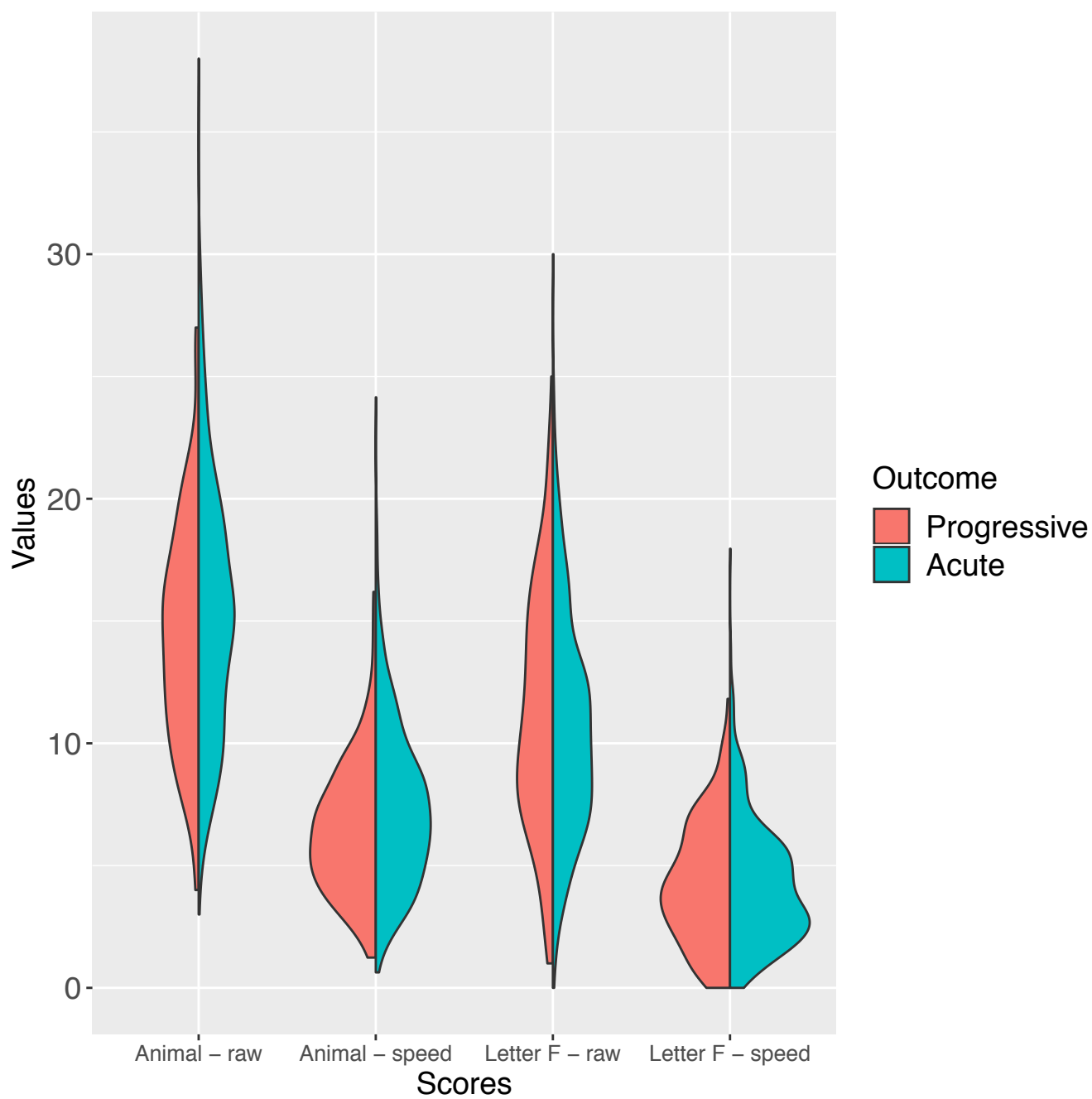


**Supplementary Figure 1. Flowchart showing subject selection.** Stroke-free REGARDS participants who had undergone baseline verbal fluency evaluation with animals and letter F, but had no baseline cognitive impairment and no clinical stroke were selected (N=19,795) and split into those who were (N=1,874) or were not (N=17,921) impaired on the Six-Item Screener (SIS) at the most recent evaluation. From the group with impairment, 703 individuals met the requirement of having scored in the normal range at the SIS evaluation *immediately following* the baseline fluency evaluation. This ICI criterion was necessary to ensure that participants did not already have cognitive impairment at the time of the fluency recording. From the group without cognitive impairment, 14,281 individuals had no record of any abnormal SIS score. We were able to perfectly match 641 cases to controls on demographic variables.



**Supplementary Figure 2.** Split violin plots showing distribution of animals and letter F raw and speed scores for acute and progressive subsets of the ICI case group.